

### Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,185,557 to Liu.

Applicant has canceled claims 51-53. As a result, claims 1-50 are pending in the application.

#### The § 102(e) Rejection in view of Liu

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that Liu does not teach or suggest *incrementing a not-match counter* if no match is found between the loaded row(s) of a first table and a loaded row of a second table, as required by Applicant. In an effort to find this element, the Examiner cites column 8, lines 56-65 of Liu which recite, "If the end of the data page has been reached, there are no more matches on the data page for any of the outer rows in the set that remain to be processed and another data page must be searched. In an embodiment in which the data page are not linked, the index pages of the B-tree are searched to locate another data page using the outer row that caused the end of data page to be reached as the page-finder row (step 209). In another embodiment in which the data pages are linked, step 209 traverses each link to the next page until it finds the data page which should hold the page-finder row." While this passage is interesting, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that nowhere in the above recited section, or any other section Applicant is aware of, does Liu teach or even suggest *incrementing a not-match counter* in the event a match is not found between the loaded row(s) of a first table and a loaded row of a second table, as required by Applicant. Therefore, Liu does not teach all of the elements of Applicant's claims 1 and 18. As a result, Applicant's claims 1 and 18, and their dependents, are patentable over Liu under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

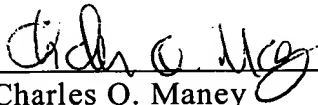
Likewise, with respect to claim 34, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that Liu does not teach or even suggest a computer program comprising executable

instructions that cause a computer to *increment a not-match counter* if no match is found between the loaded row(s) of a first table and a loaded row of a second table, as required by Applicant. In an attempt to find this element, the Examiner cites column 9, lines 1-11 of Liu which recite, “In one embodiment of the merge join process, the searches for a first match row and a next match row both employ a nested loop algorithm[.] In an alternate embodiment, the merge join process handles outer rows with duplicate join column values by processing the first of the duplicates to determine if a matching inner row exists. The search is not performed on any of the other duplicates. If a matching inner row is found for the first duplicate, the matching inner row is the join row for all the other duplicates. If no matching inner row is found, all the duplicate outer rows are discarded.” As for claims 1 and 18, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that nowhere in the above recited section, or any other section Applicant is aware of, does Liu teach or even suggest a computer program comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to *increment a not-match counter* if no match is found between the loaded row(s) of a first table and a loaded row of a second table as required by Applicant’s claim 34. Therefore, Liu does not teach all of the elements of Applicant’s claim 34. As a result, Applicant’s claim 34 and its dependents are patentable over Liu under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Conclusions

In light of the foregoing, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 14-0225.

Respectfully,

  
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